



(Photo by Sgt. Juan Santiago 1-325 Abn. Infantry Regiment)

"All better"

Pfc. Willie Green, of 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, gives an Iraqi child an immunization while the child's mother watches during a medical assistance mission in Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood May 8. (See story page 2)

Airborne medics come to the rescue after rocket attack

By Sgt. Mike Pryor
2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs

COP CALLAHAN, Baghdad - The rocket attack occurred at 6:30 in the morning. Spc. Ian Paat was in bed, sleeping, when the first explosion jarred him awake.

"It was as loud as anything I've heard," said Paat, a medic from North Hollywood, Calif.

Paat and his bunk mate and fellow medic, Pfc. Paul Jordan, of Atlanta, flew out of their bunks and immediately

grabbed their medical aid bags. As they moved in the direction of the blast, they heard shouting.

Paat led the way, with Jordan a few steps behind. Out in the hall, it was chaos. Smoke and dust filled the air. Coalition Outpost Callahan had been hit by a barrage of rockets, and several had penetrated the walls. In the next room, a beam of sunlight was shining through a hole that a rocket had punched through the wall. Beneath it, two paratroopers were lying on the ground.

Paat began treating the first casualty.

Jordan arrived moments later. He saw a crowd hovering around the other wounded paratrooper, shouting for a medic. As Jordan pushed forward, he saw that the paratrooper had severe leg wounds.

It was the moment every medic spends his career preparing for, while hoping it never comes. A fellow soldier's life was on the line. Jordan, 23, on his first deployment and a medic for only six months, had never seen such a severe injury. But he didn't hes-

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More than 400 patients treated in Hurriyah

By Sgt. Juan Santiago
1-325th Abn. Inf.

BAGHDAD - Members of the Iraqi Ministry of Health along with Soldiers from Multi-National Division - Baghdad, conducted a joint medical operation on May 8, to provide needed medical attention to the people in the western neighborhood of

Hurriyah.

The Iraqi Ministry of Health spearheaded the operation with four physicians providing medical attention to patients. Coalition Forces also provided two Army surgeons, a physician's assistant and nearly a dozen medics to help screen and process all of the patients.

This is the second operation

in two months that the Ministry of Health has worked side-by-side with the paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. In addition to providing immunization shots for the local children, the medical providers screened more than 400 patients, treating everything from minor

bumps and bruises to severe illnesses and mental disabilities. The medical team also donated boxes of medical supplies to the Hurriyah Clinic #2 to augment the clinic's pharmaceutical stock.

As the patients left the clinic, children were handed toys, t-shirts, Iraqi flags, school supplies and personal hygiene items. Their parents were handed blankets, vitamins for their children, boxes of perishable goods and a brochure with information on how to contact Coalition Forces to provide tips on terrorist activity.

Paratroopers from Company A, 1-325th AIR provided security for the duration of the operation; conducting crowd control, traffic control and over-watch security while members of Company E, 1-325th AIR provided transportation and helped establish support infrastructure.




As the day came to an end, the residents showed their appreciation for the care they had been given, all thanking the Ministry of Health and Coalition Force healthcare providers.



(Photo by Sgt. Juan Santiago 1-325th Abn. Inf.)

Staff Sgt. Larry Metcalf holds an Iraqi child while Pfc. Willie Green gives her an immunization during a medical assistance mission in Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood May 8.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report			
	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
High: 101 Low: 76	High: 102 Low: 77	High: 102 Low: 78	

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With their quick reaction, medics save lives

Medic

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itate to act.

"I just went back to my training. The only thing I saw was the injury. I just focused on what I had to do to treat it, and put everything else out of my mind" Jordan said.

The attack on May 1 wounded four paratroopers - one severely - but thanks to the quick reactions of Jordan, Paat and the other medics from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, no lives were lost.

"I couldn't have been prouder about the way the medics performed," said battalion surgeon Capt. Naveed Naz, of Potomac, Md. "They definitely saved the day."

Everyone who reacted to the crisis, from the first responders, to the treatment team, to

the pilots who evacuated the wounded, contributed to saving the critically wounded paratrooper's life, said San Luis Obispo, Calif. native 1st Lt. Francis Ciccini, the medical platoon leader for the battalion.

"They did everything right," Ciccini said. "And doing everything right that day definitely saved his life."

At the scene of the impact, Jordan immediately went to work trying to stop the casualty's bleeding. Paat rushed over to help. Together, they applied tourniquets to both the wounded paratrooper's legs.

As Paat and Jordan worked furiously to stabilize the patient, two floors beneath them, treatment team leader Sgt. Phillip Saavedra, from Whittier, Calif., was readying the aid station to receive casualties. He had rushed there as soon as he heard the blast, not knowing what to expect. Then

the first casualty arrived, carried there on Spc. Daniel Welter's back.

A rocket that hit on the third floor had sprayed shrapnel around the wounded paratroopers' eyes. Welter, a platoon medic from Monticello, Iowa, picked up the temporarily blinded Soldier and carried him piggy-back style to the aid station.

As Saavedra was laying him on an examining table, another wounded paratrooper was brought in. Both casualties had relatively minor wounds. Saavedra breathed a sigh of relief. He had feared there might be worse injuries. But just then, the paratrooper with the serious leg wounds was brought in.

As soon as he saw who it was, Saavedra's heart dropped. The wounded paratrooper was a friend of his. Saavedra had to fight to keep his emotions in

check as he began treating his wounds.

"It sucks working on your friends," he said. "You can't let it get to you. You've got to just block it out."

The medevac helicopters were already on their way. Saavedra's job was to keep the patients stable until the birds arrived. He and his team worked around the wounded paratroopers, giving them fluids and drugs and talking to keep them from going into shock.

From inside the aid station, the medics could hear the helicopters landing. The birds hadn't even settled on the ground as the medics were on the move, rushing out to the landing zone with the patients on litters.

Within a half hour of the start of the attack, all the wounded had been loaded onto helicopters and evacuated for further treatment.

"That was probably the quickest that we've ever treated and evacuated someone out of here," Ciccini said.

As soon as the helicopters were in the air, all the emotions Jordan had been blocking out started to hit him.

"I just felt so bad. I knew there was nothing more I could have done, but . . . I wanted to make sure everyone went home alive and in one piece," Jordan said. "He's alive, but I'd feel a whole lot better if he was whole."

Despite Jordan's doubts, Ciccini said the performance of the medics was exceptional that day.

"The medical platoon is kind of like a spare tire," he said. "Sometimes it's in the way, but when you need it, you expect it to work. And the guys were working that day."



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Phillip Saavedra (left), a Whittier, Calif. native, checks the vital signs of a patient in the aid station at Coalition Outpost Callahan May 4.

Diyala Governor receives much-needed ambulances

Multi-National Division - North PAO

BAQOUBA, Iraq - Diyala Governor Ra'ad Tamimi received the keys to new ambulances for the provincial Ministry of Health during a ceremony May 10 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

The ambulances are 18 of 35 that were purchased by the Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team and will be distributed to hospitals across the province.

"We've traveled around and we've done assessments of other hospitals, like Muqadiyah, Khanaqin, and other places," said Capt. Jan Rose, a nurse with Company C, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, from Little Rock, Ark.

The unit works with the State Department-led provincial reconstruction team to rebuild infrastructure in Diyala, including schools, water systems, and health clinics.

"We hear that they're having a hard time having access to care. So, through these vehicles, hopefully they'll be able to deliver supplies, transport patients - just have a better, safer way to get their

patients back and forth to community hospitals," said Rose.

The ceremony was the culmination of a long process that started with the previous unit in Diyala, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

They identified the need from the Ministry of Health to get ambulances, said Capt. Henry Shih, the brigade surgeon of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas.

Shih said that up until now, they only had half the ambulances they needed.

"They needed 70 ambulances for the province. They only had 35 on hand. So, through the Provincial Reconstruction Team and brigade commander's emergency response program funds which are used for reconstruction projects in Diyala, they were able to contract to have 35 ambulances produced and delivered here to Baqouba," said Shih. "This multiplies a great deal their capability to bring patients to the hospitals."

The ambulances are minivans that



Gov. Ra'ad Tamimi, Diyala province governor, speaks during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warhorse near Baqouba, Iraq, May 10.

have been converted into medical vehicles, capable of transporting one patient and equipped with a roll-out stretcher, oxygen tank, and patient monitoring equipment.

The Directorate General of Health, Dr. Homm, has a staff of paramedics who will drive the ambulances and help take care of patients.

"Dr. Homm has a distribution plan. He's already decided which areas need them the most," added Shih.

Shih said handing over keys to the ambulances to Governor Tamimi was not only symbolic but also very significant.

"I want to give credit to the last unit for starting this project. All the people in the civil affairs teams and the provincial reconstruction team are really pushing a lot of these rebuilding projects, trying to help the Iraqis become more self-sufficient," said Shih.

"I think that says a lot to the efforts of the units and the Soldiers here and the civilians that work with us."



(Photos by Sgt. Armando Monroig 5th MPAD)

Gov. Ra'ad Tamimi, Diyala Province governor, holds the keys to the 18 ambulances that were handed over from the Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team to the Diyala Ministry of Health at Forward Operating Base Warhorse near Baqouba, Iraq, May 10.